reported that no suicides have taken place during the last six months. The State Government have, however, stated that the rate of suicides in the State in comparison with that in other States is on the rise. The State Government had got the matter investigated and found that the suicides were mainly due to family discord, alcohol & illicit drug use, indebtedness, loss of status and lack of resources. The State Government had taken appropriate action like providing short-term credit to the farmers to meet the socio-economic consumption needs. No report on suicides committed by farmers during last six months has been received from other States.

DRIP Irrigation Scheme in Gujarat

†2913. SHRI GOPAL SINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by Central Government during last three years for drip irrigation scheme in Gujarat, district-wise;

(b) whether State Government have sought any increase in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) The details of funds allotted for drip irrigation to the Government of Gujarat under (i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Use of Plastics in Agriculture and (ii) Sustainable development of Sugarcane based Cropping system during the last three years is as follows :

(Rupees in lakh)

Year	Funds allocated	
	Plastic	Sugarcane
1997-98	24.80	62.50
1998-99	216.00	70.00
1999-2000	210.60	49.00

Central assistance is, however, allocated to the State Government.

(b) and (c) During the year 1997-98, the Government of Gujarat requested for an amount of Rs. 292.00 lakhs and during 1999-2000 they requested for Rs. 400.00 lakhs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Use

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of Plastics in Agriculture. After taking into consideration the unspent balance available with the State Government, the amount for drip irrigation was enhanced to Rs. 98.84 lakhs during 1997-98.

Area under Palm Oil Cultivation

2914. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the area under palm oil is increasing every year;

(b) what is the acreage under palm oil presently in the country;

(c) the acreage figures under palm oil plantation, state-wise;

(d) whether Government has received any representations from farmers in Andhra Pradesh on the glut in plam oil; and

(e) the steps proposed to help Andhra Pradesh farmers raising palm oil seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) State-wise and total acreage under Oil Palm plantations presently in the country are given in the statement (*see* below) :

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government is implementing a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in Andhra Pradesh to ensure that Oil Palm growers are paid reasonable price of Oil Palm Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs). Under the scheme Government is procuring oil palm Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) from farmers at a price of Rs. 2750 per MT.

Statement

Area under Oil Palm Plantation presently in the Country (Provisional)

S.No.	Name of the State	Area in ha.
1	2	3.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24,128
2.	Karnataka	5,339
3.	Tamil Nadu	9,250
4.	Gujarat	233
5.	Orissa	1,047
6.	Goa	684
7.	Tripura	86
8.	Assam	10